

need to spend a lot of money on pictures, hairstylists, makeup artists, photographers, or clothes to get started in this business, either he's not completely informed about the modeling process or he's scamming you. In either case, grab your wallet and run!!

Sometimes, however, young, inexperienced photographers will volunteer to do photo sessions with aspiring models to get experience and develop their own books. This is called a "test shoot for experience," and it can be a great learning experience for a model. But the difference here is that there is no charge, or that it's minimal (under \$100), just enough to cover the processing and printing of the film. See Chapter 8, "Modeling for Experience (Hobby Modeling)," for more information on test shoots for experience.

Getting in the Door Is a Snap(shot)

The most that's needed to get your foot in the door are a few snapshots that by no means require a professional to take. As I've said, anything more is really a waste of time and money. (But if you already have test shots that you feel you would like to use, by all means, use them.)

These pictures can be handed out at model searches, conventions, and open calls. (See Chapter 7, "Finding an Agent," for more information about these.) Also, they can be mailed to agents whom you can't meet in person. Keep your photos simple; don't bother spending a lot of money on fancy effects or special clothes. Again, the model scouts aren't looking for fabulous photography; all they want to see is what you look like, and if they can tell that from the photo, then that photo is a masterpiece.

Ask a friend or family member who's handy with a camera to shoot you. You'll want to take both head shots, which are close-ups of your head and shoulders, and body shots, which are pictures that show your body from head to toe.



Roshumba's Rules

Use a whole roll of 24- or 36-exposure film so you'll be able to choose the best shots on the roll.

Getting Camera-Ready

In the photos, your face should be clean, and you should be wearing little or no makeup. At most, apply a little mascara, which will enhance your eyes, and some natural-colored lip gloss; if you're having a bad skin day, use a small amount of concealer to discreetly cover a zit or two. Remember, the agent is interested in seeing the real you, not the made-up you. Make sure your hair is pulled off your face, or simply styled.

For the head shots, it doesn't really matter what you wear, because your clothes won't show in the photo. For the body shots, you'll want to pose in a solid-colored, one- or two-piece bathing suit or leotard, which will give agents the best look at your body. Avoid anything too revealing; thongs, G-strings, and T-backs are too flashy. Leopard prints, bold graphics, or stripes on a bathing suit or leotard will make it harder to see